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TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ: PAKISTANI HOSTAGES,

FOREIGN TROOPS; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM; U.S.-PAK

RELATIONS; AFGHANISTAN: ELECTIONS; SUDAN: HUMANITARIAN
 CRISIS

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(July 30, 2004)

MR Highlights: Reaction to the killing of two Pakistani hostages in Iraq dominated front-pages in both English and Urdu dailies. While the government severely criticized the killings as an "anti-Islam act," the government itself was blamed for the deaths by the opposition (paras 2-4).

There was widespread condemnation of the killings in editorials, with most using the opportunity to yet again remind the government of the dangers involved in deploying troops in Iraq. "The incident only forces us to suggest, yet again, that Pakistan should stay out of the mess in Iraq," said liberal "Daily Times" (para 31). Centrist "Dawn" decried the "mindless savagery," adding, "the only scenario in which Pakistani troops should serve in Iraq is one in which the U.N. takes over the administration" (para 33).

Pro-Jihadi Urdu daily "Ummat" tried to justify the killings, saying "the two Pakistanis were killed after it was proven that they were spying for the Americans. Why didn't those people who are now decrying these killings pay any timely heed to the demands of the kidnappers earlier?" (para 36).

The story of "one of FBI's most wanted men" was functionally lost in the myriad of Iraq-related stories. The story's most visible placements appeared in a single, abbreviated column format at the edge of some front pages. Most news stories made reference to FBI "head money of \$25 million" in conjunction with the suspect's identity (paras 16-20). End Highlights.

-- News Stories/Iraq: Pakistani Hostages, Foreign Troops

1. "Pakistan Undeterred by Killings" "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: Pakistan on Thursday condemned the brutal killing of its two citizens in Iraq by an armed group and declared that such terror acts could not deter its resolve to fight the scourge of terrorism.... The President and Prime Minister reiterated the resolve to continue with the fight against terror. However, they directed the Foreign Office and other relevant quarters to take steps for repatriation of all Pakistani citizens in Iraq.... In this context, the meeting discussed the Pakistani troops' deployment in Iraq and also the

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proposal of sending Muslim force to Iraq comprising troops from the Muslim states. However, according to sources, no final decision was taken on the matter. The President and Prime Minister also made it clear that no decision on the issue would be taken against the wishes of Pakistani people.... End quote.

2. "Hostage Killing Denounced As Anti-Islam Act" "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: ... The President and the Prime Minister termed the killings an act of stark brutality. "This is a crime against humanity and totally against the teachings of Islam, which is a religion of peace," they said....

The President exchanged views with the prime minister regarding his contacts with various world leaders as well as the leadership of Sudan to defuse the crisis in Darfur.... End quote.

3. "The Government is Responsible for the Killing of Pakistanis (in Iraq); We Will Protest if Troops are Sent: Joint Opposition," "Pakistan" (07/30)

Quote: Opposition parties have reacted strongly to the killing of two Pakistani hostages in Iraq and called it (a result of) government intransigence. The opposition has asked the government not to send troops to Iraq or it would hold protests. End quote.

4. "Had Government Tried, Incident Would Not Have Occurred: Family," "Jang" (07/30)

Quote: A close family member of one of the slain Pakistanis in Iraq has said that had the government of Pakistan tried its best, the gory incident in Iraq could have been averted. He said that the government should have announced that it is not going to send its troops to Iraq. End quote.

5. "Religious Parties Announce Country-Wide Protest Day On Friday," "Ummat" (07/30)

Quote: The religious parties alliance has held President Musharraf responsible for the killing of two Pakistanis in Iraq and announced to observe Friday as protest day throughout the country. It warned the government that a movement would be launched against it if it announced the sending of Pakistani troops to Iraq. End quote.

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6. "Pakistan Asks Its Citizens To Leave Iraq Immediately," "Jang" (07/30)

Quote: Informed sources revealed that the Pakistan Foreign Office has asked all its citizens in Iraq to leave the country immediately. Besides, it has also directed its embassies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Qatar and other countries in the region not to issue visas or work permits to Pakistanis for entering into Iraq. End quote.

7. "Six Hundred Pakistanis Stranded In Company's Camp in Iraq," "Jang" (07/30)

Quote: Noted social worker Ansar Burni has disclosed that there have been at least six hundred Pakistanis stranded at a company camp in Iraq. He said that these people have not been able to come out of their camps for the last three days for fear of being killed or kidnapped. End quote.

8. "Pakistanis' Execution Angers U.S." "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: Describing it as terrorist act, the United States on Thursday expressed its outrage and anguish over the brutal murder of two Pakistanis employed by a private company in Iraq. Reacting to the reported murder, a State Department official said: "We are

outraged by these terrorist acts, and send our condolences to their families and to the Pakistani people." "The murder of civilians engaged in helping Iraq's reconstruction demonstrates the contempt these armed groups have for the Iraqi people," the official said.... End quote.

9. "Despite the Killing of Two Citizens We Hope that Pakistan Would Take Part in Iraqi Security: U.S.," "Nawa-e-Waqt" (07/30)

Quote: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has said that the Saudi government has prepared a plan for the deployment of Muslim states' troops to Iraq. According to sources, he said that despite the killing of two citizens, the U.S. hoped that Pakistan would participate in security arrangements for Iraq. End quote.

10. "Shujaat, Saudi Leaders Discussed Muslim Force For Iraq" "The News" (07/30)

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Quote: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain discussed the possibility of creating a "Muslim force" to help bring stability to Iraq on a visit to Saudi Arabia last week, officials said on Thursday.... "The prime minister was briefed about the idea of an Islamic force which had been earlier mooted in the conference of Iraq's neighboring countries held in Cairo just prior to the visit," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told Reuters.... A senior U.S. State Department official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said the United States is interested in the idea of a Muslim Force for Iraq.... A spokesman for the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) said the alliance would back the use of Pakistani participation in a Muslim force, but warned that it should not become a tool in the hands of the Americans. "We welcome it," said the spokesman, Ameer-ul Azeem. "This is a way to unify Muslim nations ... but Islamic activists must ensure that it is not used by the imperialist powers."... End quote.

11. "Powell, Kasuri Discuss Muslim Force For Iraq" "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: The United States Thursday discussed with Pakistan the proposal to deploy "Muslim force" in Iraq as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell made a phone call to his Pakistani counterpart after deliberating upon the vital issue with top Saudi leadership. The U.S. Secretary of State, who is currently on a Middle East visit, spoke to Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri from Saudi Arabia. Powell expressed his sorrow over the execution of two Pakistanis in Iraq, said an official statement.... End quote.

12. "Opposition Against Sending Troops To Iraq" "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: ... Speaking at a joint news conference at Parliament Cafeteria after adjournment of the lower house, Raja Parvaiz Ashraf of the People's Party Parliamentarians, Imran Khan of Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf and Saad Rafiq of PML-N asked the government to announce in clear terms that it would in no circumstances send

troops to the war-shattered country so that such tragedies could be avoided in future. The opposition leaders accused the government of indecision on such an important issue because of its total submission to the U.S.... End quote.

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13. "Stay Away From Iraq; Zargawi Warns Muslim States"
"Daily Times " (07/30)

Quote: The Iraqi hostage crisis deepened on Thursday with two beheadings and the threatened execution of more captives, as an Al Qaeda affiliated group warned it would attack an Arab or Muslim force mooted for Iraq....
End quote.

14. "Muslim States Warned Against Sending Troops" "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: A statement in the name of the group of alleged Al-Qaeda operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi threatened on Thursday to attack any Arab or Muslim force dispatched to Iraq as proposed by Saudi Arabia and welcomed by the United States. 'We will not stand idle if forces from any Arab or Muslim country, notably Saudi Arabia, Pakistan or Egypt, are sent to Iraq,' warned the 'Omar al-Mukhtar Brigades' of the Tawhid wa al-Jihad (Unification and Holy War) group.

The statement was posted on the Islamist website (www.islamic-minbar.com). The Saudi proposal to send Arab or Muslim forces to Iraq was discussed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell with both Saudi leaders and Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi during a visit to Jeddah which ended earlier Thursday.... End quote.

15. "One Somali, 4 Jordanians Kidnapped in Iraq; We Will Attack Troops from Muslim Countries Also: Zarqawi,"
"Din" (07/30)

Quote: Clashes in Iraq yesterday left 3 Americans dead. Meanwhile, one Somali and 4 Jordanians have been kidnapped. In a message posted on a website, the kidnappers have warned of killing one of the hostages today and warned Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other countries not to send troops to Iraq. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

16. "FBI's Most Wanted Held" "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: At least one of the three foreign nationals arrested after Sunday's high-pitched gun-battle here may be among the FBI's one of the most wanted terrorists with a head money of \$25 million, police sources believe. An Arabian TV channel late Thursday confirmed that Pakistani authorities have nabbed FBI's one of the

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most wanted terrorist hailing from Tanzania named as Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani.... End quote.

17. "FBI's Most-Wanted Khalfan Arrested From Gujrat"
"The News" (07/30)

Quote: Ahmed bin Khalfan, a Tanzanian national listed on American Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most-wanted list was arrested with his Uzbek wife and

kids from a house in Gujrat, revealed Geo TV quoting a Arab TV. Khalfan who carried a head money of 25 million U.S. dollars was arrested from a house in Gujrat on Sunday after a 14-hours gunfight, which left one policeman injured. Khalfan was required by the FBI in the U.S. Embassies bombings in Tanzania, Kenya and Darus Salaam in Nairobi.... End quote.

18. "Top Suspect of Al-Qaeda Arrested" "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: Pakistan has arrested a top Al Qaeda suspect wanted by the United States, Al Arabiya news channel quoted President Pervez Musharraf as saying. "The Pakistani President said the arrested person is Tanzanian who is married to an Uzbek woman, and who is wanted by the United States," the channel said. President Musharraf told Al Arabiya that the suspect was arrested on Sunday, but declined to name him. Al Arabiya said the suspect may be Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian who is on the FBI's most wanted 'terrorists' list for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.... End quote.

19. "High Value Target of \$25m Head Money Held: Musharraf" "Pakistan Observer" (07/30)

Quote: A high value target with \$25 million head money was arrested in Gujrat, President Musharraf revealed to Pakistan Observer. He is a Tanzanian married to an Uzbek woman who was arrested during an anti-terrorist operation in the Punjab city on Sunday. It may be recalled the police on a tip off conducted a 15-hour raid in a locality of the city and arrested four foreign terrorists along with three women, six children from a house and recovered arms and ammunition.... End quote.

20. "Persons Arrested from Gujrat Include Ahmad Bin Khalfan, Wanted by the U.S," "Din" (07/30)

Quote: According to an Arab TV report, a Tanzanian

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Ahmad Bin Khalfan is among those arrested from Gujrat. He is involved in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania. Khalfan might be handed over to the U.S after investigation. End quote.

21. "Terrorists Planning Attacks During Friday Prayers in Karachi" "Daily Times" (07/30)

Quote: The Home Department of the Sindh government has warned that terrorists of a defunct religious organization are planning attacks on mosques and Imam Bargahs in Karachi on Friday, reported a news channel on Thursday. According to the channel, the provincial Home Department issued a press note on Thursday saying that terrorists of a defunct religious organization Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were planning suicide bomb attacks on the mosques and Imam Bargahs in Karachi on Friday. "Terrorists may use briefcases, lunch-boxes and may even employ women for the attacks."... End quote.

22. "There is a Threat of Suicide Attacks on Mosques and Imam Bargahs (Today) in Karachi; Government Warns Citizens," "Pakistan" (07/30)

Quote: The Sindh Home Department has warned citizens that suicide attacks can take place in Karachi today. Mosques and Imam Bargahs could be targeted and women suicide bombers could be used to carry out these attacks. End quote.

23. "Suicide Attacks Likely In Karachi Today: Sindh Home Department," "Jang" (07/30)

Quote: The Sindh Home Department has announced that there is likelihood that members of the banned religious organization Lashkar-e-Jhangvi might carry out suicidal attacks in mosques during Friday prayers in Karachi on July 30. End quote.

24. "Decision To Shift American Consulate In Karachi From Existing Location; Surplus Staff Returns," "Jasarat" (07/30)

Quote: The U.S. government has decided to shift its consulate in Karachi from the existing location to some safer place. Informed sources said that the U.S. was not satisfied with the security arrangements provided by the government of Pakistan due to which the U.S. has recalled its non-essential staff from the consulate. End quote.

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25. "Afghan Military Officer Killed In Skirmishes With Pakistani Security Forces," "Ummat" (07/30)

Quote: An Afghan security officer was killed and several others were injured in skirmishes with Pakistani security forces in the Pak-Afghan border area near Jalalabad province. End quote.

26. "Jirga's Decision to Kill Woman's Husbands Enrages Town" "Daily Times" (07/30)

Quote: A local Jirga has decided to kill a woman's two husbands - one whom she married for love, and the other whom her father forced her to marry without divorcing the first. Teenaged Kiran had previously rebelled against the same Jirga when it wanted to return her to a husband selected by the toss of a coin. Kiran told "Daily Times" it was customary to bring potential marriage proposals to the Jirga that often decided a woman's fate by tossing a coin in a difficult decision. When this happened to her, she refused to accept the Jirga's decision and instead married a young man, called Naseem, whom she loved. However, Kiran said her father, Abdul Lateef, later forced her to marry a man named Muhammad Boota.... The case of the concurrent marriages was then brought to the Jirga, which concluded that both husbands had violated Hudood laws. Therefore, it was held that the culprits be awarded capital punishment. Both husbands are reportedly at large.... End quote.

27. "Raped Woman Slain; 17th Victim of Revenge" "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: A woman whose rape by a landlord started a series of killings in Sherpur village (Ahmadnagar) some six years ago was slain along with her guard near Klaske on Thursday. The ambush by her rivals also claimed the

life of a passer by. The enmity has so far left 17 people dead. Daughter of a dairy farmer, Farzana Bibi was assaulted criminally by Chaudhry Basharat Ali alias Basharti some six years ago. After subjecting her to rape, the accused had shaved her head "for she had loose mores."... This started a series of revenge killings between the two families which, till now, claimed 17 lives.... End quote.

28. "Boy Who Sought Musharraf's Help Loses Nose And Ears" "Daily Times" (07/30)

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Quote: Landlords of Deharki in Chak No 228-B, Rahim Yar Khan, chopped off the ears and nose of a 15-year-old boy on Wednesday night because he had petitioned President Musharraf to rescue his family from bonded labor.

Dilbar's family was released from slavery two months ago after he wrote repeated letters to the President, urging him to rescue his family from the Mehr Sardars, under whom they had been working as slaves for the last 60 years. Six men attacked Dilbar's home on Wednesday night. They tortured him and his seven family members and started shooting in order to keep the neighbors away.... End quote.

-- U.S.-Pak Relations

29. "U.S. Embassy Changes Courier Service" "Daily Times" (07/30)

Quote: The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has announced a major change in its visa courier and visa appointment services. According to a statement issued on Thursday, the American Express will start providing all U.S. Embassy visa application courier services including accepting U.S. visa applications and arranging interview appointments dates from August 2 (Monday).... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions: Watch list Items

-- Iraq: Pakistani Hostages, Foreign Troops

30. "Murder Of Two Pakistanis In Iraq," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (07/30)

Quote: ... President Musharraf and Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain ... have rightly called the perpetrators of this cruel and ruthless act as the enemies of Islam and humanity.... The entire world knows Pakistan's record that including the United Nations Security Council, it has never done anything at any forum or supported any such step that would have jeopardized the sovereignty, unity or stability of the people of Iraq.... The latest dastardly incidents of violence on the Iraqi people have made it necessary to make an assessment about the people who in the name of rights and freedom are kidnapping and killing innocent civilians.... If the kidnappers are working for the

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cause of the Iraqi people, they should realize that by kidnapping and killing innocent people, they are only trampling upon Islamic and human values, thereby

damaging the cause of the Iraqi people in the Islamic world. End quote.

31. "The Tragic Slaying Of The Pakistanis And The Larger Issues Of The War In Iraq," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (07/30)

Quote: ... All governments lie and the U.S. government is no exception. It still refuses to admit the fact that it started a useless war in Iraq and its misadventure there has gone horribly wrong.... The U.S. has unleashed forces in Iraq that have not only plunged that country into near-anarchy but which also have the potential to destabilize the entire region. The U.S. is now morally bound to correct the situation whatever it takes. The argument that all it would take for Iraq to straighten out is the withdrawal of U.S. forces is buncombe.... Pakistan has lost two of its nationals and primarily because the groups operating in Iraq believe Islamabad is playing in league with Washington.... The incident only forces us to suggest, yet again, that Pakistan should stay out of the current mess in Iraq. This is unfortunate but Iraq is not our war. It is America's and Washington itself should deal with it. End quote.

32. "Whose Guilt?," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: ... It should be clear to the government that subterfuges like making the decision to send troops contingent upon other Muslim governments' similar moves would not work.... The safety of millions of our workers in the Gulf lies in declaring that, pressure or no pressure, we would not deploy our troops in Iraq as long as the U.S. and its coalition stay put there. End quote.

33. "A Gruesome Act," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (07/30)

Quote: ... Those who committed this crime have shown themselves up in a horrifying light of mindless savagery.... The U.S. is now desperately looking for

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soldiers from Muslim countries to police Iraq. It is unlikely that any Muslim country will oblige.... But whatever the procedure followed in deciding the question, it would be a big mistake to send the country's troops to Iraq under the present circumstances.... The only scenario in which Pakistani troops should serve in Iraq is one in which the UN takes over the administration.... It is to strengthen the UN's presence in Iraq and help it organize elections to a transitional assembly that Islamabad should consider sending troops to that country. Any other course would give Pakistan a bad image in the Middle East and have political repercussions at home. End quote.

34. "Gruesome Murder Of Two Kidnapped Pakistanis In Iraq," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (07/30)

Quote: After this gory incident of killing of Pakistanis, it has become all the more necessary for the people of Iraq to find out as to who are the people who are kidnapping and killing innocent Iraqis and foreign civilians in the name of the independence and rights of Iraqis. What are their real ambitions and for whom are they working? Their actions could not in any way benefit the cause of peace and stability of the people of Iraq. End quote.

35. "Murder Of Pakistanis," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (07/30)

Quote: The anger of those resisting against the United States and the interim Iraqi government is justified and understandable but targeting innocent people is bringing bad name to this struggle. The two Pakistanis killed in Iraq were civilians and had gone there to earn their living. No Pakistani is opposed to Iraq or Iraqis and the U.S. aggression against Iraq has been unanimously condemned in Pakistan. As such, the murder of two Pakistanis is highly lamentable. End quote.

36. "This Quick Repentance," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (07/30)

Quote: The Iraqi driver, kidnapped along with the slain Pakistanis but released later, has informed that the two Pakistanis were killed after it was proved that they were spying for the Americans. Why didn't those people who are now decrying these killings pay any timely heed

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to the demands of the kidnappers earlier?" Didn't they know that mercy appeals have no effect whatsoever in times of war. Why those who are declaring this Iraqi group [of kidnappers] as anti-Islam and anti-humanity were oblivious to the reality that the demand of the kidnappers was not based on their personal interest or gains, neither were they demanding anything dangerous. They were only asking Pakistan for not sending its troops to Iraq that is also the demand of the entire Pakistani nation barring the small coterie of our ruling class. End quote.

37. "Declaration of War Against the Pakistani Nation?" an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (07/30)

Quote: The government must pay full attention to the barbaric killing of two of its citizens in Iraq. It must hunt the perpetrators of this crime and bring them to justice so that the world and the Iraqi captors know that 'a declaration of war against Pakistan' would cost them dearly. Pakistan must give appropriate compensation to the bereaved families. The U.S. must also compensate the families of Raja Anwar and Sajjad Naeem the way it is compensating the families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq. End quote.

38. "An Extremely Cruel and Barbaric Step," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (07/30)

Quote: As far as the issue of sending troops to Iraq is concerned, we have opposed it from the very first day

and continue to stick to our stance. Only a day ago, we had said in these columns that the government must make a categorical announcement of not sending troops to Iraq, but the decision should be the government's (in either case). Just as it should not be pressurized by the U.S. into sending troops, the government should not be blackmailed by a (militant) group into not sending troops. The political parties must adopt a similar stand, and condemn the Jaish-e-Islami's cruel step with full force. End quote.

39. "The Killing of Pakistani Hostages," an editorial not in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (07/30)

Quote: In these circumstances, the government must exercise extreme caution and keep in mind all consequences before making a decision to send troops to

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Iraq. It is encouraging that the government is debating all aspects of this issue. We hope whatever decision is taken in this matter would be in the larger national interest. End quote.

40. "Don't Shove Pakistani Troops Into the Iraqi Fire Now," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (07/30)

Quote: We must now decide whether American orders are important for us or the safety and security of Pakistanis living here and abroad. The nation is justified in asking the government what is the compulsion that we are willing to risk the lives of our soldiers in Iraq?... Whatever the justification, the nation is not ready to shove the Pakistan army into the Iraqi fire. The government must soon make a decision and announcement to this effect - before more Pakistani lives are endangered. End quote.

-- Afghanistan: Elections

41. "Escaping Fahim," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (07/30)

Quote: ... Despite full support from Washington, Mr. Karzai faces an uphill task.... In view of the worsening law and order situation, several international agencies have upped stakes. Mdecins Sans Frontieres is the latest to announce it is pulling out... Mr. Karzai may win the election despite the challenge posed by the e warlords and the Taliban. But he will have to remain under the protection of American guards while his writ may not run beyond Kabul. End quote.

-- Sudan: Humanitarian Crisis

42. "Moral Outrage Should Cut Both Ways," an editorial in the Lahore-based English language liberal independent Weekly, "The Friday Times" (07/30-08/05)

Quote: ... How many "concerned" Muslims in Pakistan or elsewhere in the Islamic world know or care that Muslims in the far away, oil-rich, Darfur region in Sudan are killing fellow Muslims?... How many resolutions have our great and Islamic parliaments passed against the

Muslim perpetrators of this slaughter in the Sudan? The tragic answer to all these cries in the wilderness

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doesn't need to be spelt out. We Muslims are outraged by the shameful acts of infidels but blind to the bloody transgressions of our own faithful followers. End quote. Powell

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